UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/842,531	04/25/2001	Hyon T. Kim	5181-83600	7257

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EXAMINER
MEUCCI, MICHAEL D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2142	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/842,531	KIM, HYON T.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MICHAEL D. MEUCCI	2142	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 July 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24-34, 36, 37, 39-42, 44, 45, 47-49, 51, 52, 54-64, 66, 67, 69-72, 74, 75, 77-79, 81, 82, and 84-90* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24-34, 36, 37, 39-42, 44, 45, 47-49, 51, 52, 54-64, 66, 67, 69-72, 74, 75, 77-79, 81, 82, and 84-90* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *25 April 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This application has been reassigned to Michael Meucci.

2.   This action is in response to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed

12 July 2007.

3.   Examiner acknowledges the cancellation of claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 20, 23, 35, 38,

43, 46, 50, 53, 65, 68, 73, 76, 80 and 83.

4.   Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24-34, 36, 37, 39-42, 44, 45, 47-49,

51, 52, 54-64, 66, 67, 69-72, 74, 75, 77-79, 81, 82, and 84-90 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
> claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6.   Claims 62-64, 66, 67, 69-72, 74, 75, 77-79, 81, 82, and 84-90 are rejected under

35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out

and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

      a.   Claims 62-64, 66, 67, 69-72, 74, 75, 77-79, 81, 82, and 84-90 recite the

limitation "computer readable medium" in line 1 of each claim, while claim 61 recites a

"computer readable storage medium." There is insufficient antecedent basis for the

limitation "computer readable medium" in the claim. Examiner suggests replacing all

instances of "computer readable medium" with "computer readable storage medium."

Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

7.   35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 61-64, 66, 67, 69-72, 74, 75, 77-79, 81, 82, and 84-90 are rejected under

35 U.S.C. 101 because they include non-statutory subject matter. The claimed

"computer readable storage medium" is not explicitly defined by the applicant's

specification, however, "computer readable medium" is defined in the specification as:

"a computer readable medium may include storage media or memory media such as

magnetic or optical media, e.g., disk or CD-ROM, volatile or non-volatile media such as

RAM (e.g. SDRAM, DDR SDRAM, RDRAM, SRAM, etc.), ROM, etc. as well as

transmission media or signals such as electrical, electromagnetic, or digital signals,

conveyed via a communication medium such as network and/or a wireless link," (see

paragraph [0090] on page 31 of applicant's specification). Specifically, the

"transmission media or signals such as electrical, electromagnetic, or digital signals,

conveyed via a communication medium such as network and/or a wireless link" are not

considered statutory subject matter. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

9.   Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24-29, 31-34, 36, 37, 39-42, 44, 45,

47-49, 51, 52, 54-59, 61-64, 66, 67, 69-72, 74, 75, 77-79, 81, 82, and 84-89 are rejected

under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shah et al. (U.S. 7,039,922 B1)

hereinafter referred to as Shah, in view of Jibbe (U.S. 6,367,033 B1).

        a.   As to claim 1, Shah discloses a method for handling fabric state changes,

comprising: a host system (Figs. 7, 8, 10, host 210 or 212 with administrator 720 with

central fabric manager 710) receiving from a fabric (Figs. 7, 8, 10, fabric 202) coupled to

the host system an event indicating a fabric state change (Figs. 7, 8, 10; fabric services

712 of the fabric manager 710 detecting I/0 units for faults or link failures or device

removal, col. 8, lines 48-50) for one or more host adapter ports (Fig. 2, I/0 units 1 and 2)

Of said host system (the central fabric manager 710 may be configured for learning

physical cluster topology, detecting and managing faults or link failures in the data

network 200 (see FIG. 2) and performing other network management functions, such

as, for example, assignment of fabric-attached I/0 controllers to cluster hosts 210 and

212, programming of forwarding tables at cluster switches such that the redundancy

built into the topology is mapped as multiple paths between cluster hosts 210 and 212

and fabric- attached agents (e.g., I/0 controllers), and reporting of multiple paths

between the cluster hosts 210 and 212 and the fabric-attached agents (e.g., I/0

controllers), col. 8, lines 24-63; col. 9, line 64 - col. 10, line 12; col. 12, lines 27-50); and

the host system dynamically changing the host system's fabric device configuration in

response to said receiving an event (At step 5 shown in FIG. 7, the I/0 controller

manager 7140 may send a message to the host-fabric adapter 325 of the host to which

the new I/O controller has been assigned. This message to the host informs the host of

the presence of the new I/O Controller, and provides (explicitly or implicitly) authorization

for the host to access the new I/O controller. In the event that an I/O controller has been

removed from the cluster fabric 202 or has been reassigned to another host in the

cluster fabric 202, a similar message may be sent to the host (the previous owner)

indicating that the I/O controller is not available or is no longer assigned to the host.

This allows the administrator and/or the I/O controller manager 714 to dynamically add,

remove, or reassign I/O controllers in the cluster fabric 202 and quickly inform the

affected hosts of this change in the assignment or ownership of the fabric-attached I/O

controllers, col. 9, line 30- col. 10, line 62); wherein said host system dynamically

changing comprises the host system bringing online (adding (inserting), initializing,

assigning, and connecting (attaching)) or taking offline (removing or reassigning or

detaching) one or more devices for the one or more host adapter ports for the host

system (Figs. 7, 8, 10; col. 8, lines 24-63; col. 9, line 30- col. 10, line 62; col. 12, lines

27-50); wherein said bringing online comprises creating an operating system node for

each of the one or more fabric devices being to brought online, wherein each operating

system node provides a communication mechanism to a corresponding fabric device

(Figs. 7, 8, 10; the fabric bus driver 620 on the host 210 creates a separate device

object for each port of the host-fabric adapter 325 that can be used to communicate with

the target fabric-attached I/O controller, col. 8, line 24 - col. 10, line 62; col. 11, line 40 -

col. 12, line 50; col. 13, lines 23-57); wherein said taking offline comprises disabling an

operating system node for each of the one or more fabric devices being taken offline,

wherein each operating system node provides a communication mechanism to a

corresponding fabric device (Figs. 7, 8, 10; a message sent to the host (the previous

owner) indicating that the I/0 controller is not available or is no longer assigned to the

host, col. 8, lines 24-63; col. 9, line 30- col. 10, line 62;col. ~2, lines 27-50; col. 13, lines

23-57).

Shah does not explicitly teach: wherein each given operating system node

provides a communication interface to a given corresponding fabric-attached mass

storage device, and wherein an application running on said host system is configured to

communicate with said given corresponding fabric-attached mass storage device

through said given operating system node. However, Jibbe discloses: "Host-side

monitor and analyzer 125 is coupled to a mass storage database 130. In a Fibre

Channel arbitrated loop topology, host-side hub 110 may involve a node capable of

routing traffic to host-side monitor and analyzer 125. In other embodiments, host-side

monitor and analyzer 125 may be connected as a node into the arbitrated loop itself in

which case function of the host-side hub 110 is built into host-side monitor and analyzer

125. In Fibre Channel systems involving a switching fabric oriented topology, host-side

hub 110 may involve a switching fabric used to route traffic between nodes and send a

copy of selected traffic to host-side monitor and analyzer 125," (lines 6-17 of column 5).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

applicant's invention to have each given operating system node provide a

communication interface to a given corresponding fabric-attached mass storage device,

and wherein an application running on said host system is configured to communicate

with said given corresponding fabric-attached mass storage device through said given

operating system node. "In some systems, the functionality of host-side monitor and

analyzer 125 may be built into one of host computer 105's host adapters and the mass

storage database 130 may be implemented on a hard disk connected into the system

100," (lines 17-21 of column 5 in Jibbe). It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to have each

given operating system node provide a communication interface to a given

corresponding fabric-attached mass storage device, and wherein an application running

on said host system is configured to communicate with said given corresponding fabric-

attached mass storage device through said given operating system node in the system

as taught by Shah.

        b.   As to Claim 2, Shah discloses, determining an event type for said event

(removal of the existing path due to an error or due to manual reconfiguration of the

cluster fabric, col. 12, lines 43-45, col 13, line 54).

        c.   As to claim 3, Shah discloses, wherein if the event type indicates that one

of the fabric host adapter ports has lost connectivity to the fabric, said dynamically

changing comprises taking offline one or more fabric devices configured through the

host adapter port that lost connectivity to the fabric (Figs. 7, 8, 10; col. 8, lines 24-63;

col. 9, line 30 - col. 10, line 62; col. 12, lines 27-50; col 13, lines 23-57).

        d.   As to claim 4, Shah discloses, wherein said taking offline one or more

fabric devices configured through the host adapter port that lost connectivity to the

fabric comprises: reading a persistent repository (looking up a database) that indicates which fabric devices are currently online for the host adapter port that lost connectivity to the fabric; and taking offline (removing) the fabric devices indicated by the persistent repository for the host adapter port that lost connectivity to the fabric (Figs. 7, 8, 10; col. 8, lines 24-63; col. 9, line 30 - col 10, line 62; col 12, lines 27-50; col. 13, lines 23-57).

e.   As to claim 6, Shah discloses, wherein if the event type indicates that one of the fabric host adapter ports has lost connectivity to the fabric, said dynamically changing comprises: accessing a configuration file (looking up a database, col. 9, lines 54-63) for the host adapter port that lost connectivity to the fabric to determine if fabric devices for that host adapter port are to be unconfigured (unassigned) if that host adapter port loses connectivity to the fabric; and if the configuration file indicates that fabric devices are to be unconfigured upon lose of connectivity to the fabric, taking offline one or more fabric devices configured through the host adapter port that lost connectivity to the fabric (Figs. 7, 8, 10; a message sent to the host (the previous owner) indicating that the I/0 controller is not available or is no longer assigned to the host, col. 8, lines 24-63; col. 9, line 30- col. 10, line 62; col. 12, lines 27-50; col. 13, lines 23-57).

f.   Claim 7 introduces identical limitations of claim 4; therefore, it is rejected under the same rationale as in claim 4.

g.   As to claim 9, Shah discloses, prior to said receiving an event: a host adapter driver for one of the one or more host adapter ports becoming inactive or detached; and generating the event (the message) indicating that one of the one or

more host adapter ports has lost connectivity to the fabric (Figs. 7, 8, 10; step 5 in

Figure 7; col. 8, lines 24- 63; col. 9, line 30- col. 10, line 62; col. 12, lines 27-50; col. 13,

lines 23-57).

·h.   As to claim 10, Shah discloses, wherein said accessing a configuration file

for the host adapter port that lost connectivity to the fabric comprises reading a user-

defined attribute (a MAC or network address) in the configuration file, wherein the user-

define attribute indicates whether or not fabric devices for that host adapter port are to

be unconfigured (unassigned) if that host adapter port loses connectivity to the fabric

(Figs. 7, 8, 10; col. 8, line 24 - col. 10, line 62; col. 12, lines 27-50; col. 13, lines 23-57).

i.   As to claim 11, Shah discloses, wherein if the event type indicates that

one of the fabric host adapter ports has acquired connectivity to the fabric, said

dynamically changing comprises bringing online one or more fabric devices for the host

adapter port that has acquired connectivity to the fabric (Figs. 7, 8, 10; step 2 in Figure

7, the fabric service 712 detects the new I/0 controller attached to the cluster fabric 202

and assign a MAC or network address to the new I/0 unit and initialize the I/0 by setting

the ports of the I/0 unit 1 to an active state, col. 9, lines 35-42).

j.   . As to claim 12, Shah discloses, wherein said bringing online one or more

fabric devices for the host adapter port that has acquired connectivity to the fabric

comprises: reading a persistent repository (looking up the database) that indicates

which fabric devices were previously online for the host adapter port .that has acquired

connectivity to the fabric; and bringing online the fabric devices indicated by the

persistent repository for the host adapter port that has acquired connectivity to the fabric

(Figs. 7, 8, 10; col. 8, line 24 - col. 10, line 62; col. 11, line 40 - col. 12, line 50; col. 13, lines 23-57).

k.   As to claim 14, Shah discloses, wherein if the event type indicates that one of the fabric host adapter ports has acquired connectivity to the fabric, said dynamically changing comprises: accessing a configuration file (a database) for the host adapter port that has acquired connectivity to the fabric to determine if fabric devices for that host adapter port are to be .configured (assigned) if that host adapter port acquires connectivity to the fabric; and if the configuration file indicates that fabric devices are to be Configured (assigned) upon that host adapter port's connectivity to the fabric, bringing online one or more fabric devices for that host adapter port that has acquired connectivity to the fabric (Figs. 7, 8, 10; col. 8, line 24 - col. 10, line 62; col. 11, line 40 - col. 12, line 50; col 13, lines 23-57).

l.   Claim 15 introduces identical limitations of claim 12; therefore, it is rejected under the same rationale as in claim 12.

m.   As to claim 17, Shah discloses, prior to said receiving an event: a host adapter driver for one of the one or more host adapter ports becoming active or attached; and generating the event (the message) indicating that one of the one or more host adapter ports has acquired connectivity to the fabric (Figs. 7, 8, 10; step 5 in Figure 7; col. 8, line 24 -col. 10, line 62; col. 11, line 40 - col. 12, line 50; col 13, lines 23-57).

n.   As to claim 18, Shah discloses, wherein said accessing a configuration file for the host adapter port that has acquired connectivity to the fabric comprises reading a user- defined attribute in the configuration file, wherein the user-define attribute

indicates whether or not fabric devices for that host adapter port are to be configured if

that host adapter port acquires connectivity to the fabric (Figs. 7, 8, 10; col. 8, line 24 -

col. 10, line 62; col. 12, lines 27-50; col. 13, lines 23-57).

o.   As to claim 19, Shah discloses, wherein if the event type indicates that a

new fabric device has been connected to the fabric, said dynamically changing

comprises bringing online the new fabric device for one of the one or more host adapter

ports (Figs. 7, 8, 10; col 8, line 24 - col. 10, line 62; col 12, lines 27-50; col. 13, lines 23-

57).

p.   As to claim 21, Shah discloses, wherein said bringing online the new

fabric device comprises updating a persistent repository to indicate that the new fabric

'device is online for the host adapter port.(Figs. 7, 8, 10; col. 8, line 24 - col. 10, line 62;

col. 12, lines 27-50; col. 13, lines 23-57).

q.   As to claim 22, Shah discloses, wherein if the event type indicates that a

new fabric device has been connected to the fabric, said dynamically changing

comprises: accessing a configuration file for one of the one or more host adapter ports

to determine if newly connected fabric devices for that host adapter port are to be

dynamically configured; and if the configuration file indicates newly connected fabric

devices are to be dynamically configured, bringing online the new fabric device for that

host adapter port (Figs. 7, 8, 10; col. 8, line 24 - col. 10, line 62; col. 12, lines 27-50; col

13, lines 23- 57).

r.   Claim 24 introduces identical limitations of claim 21 ; therefore, it is

rejected under the same rationale as in claim 21.

s.   As to claim 25, Shah discloses, prior to said receiving an event:

connecting the fabric device to the fabric; and a fabric driver generating the event (the

message) indicating that the new fabric device has been connected to the fabric (col. 9,

line 30 - col. 10, line 62).

t.   As to claim 26, Shah discloses, wherein said accessing a configuration file

comprises reading (looking up) a user-defined attribute in the configuration file, wherein

the user define attribute indicates whether or not newly connected fabric devices for that

host adapter port are to be dynamically configured upon detection (Figs. 7, 8, 10; col. 8,

line 24 - col. 10, line 62; col. 12, lines 27-50; col. 13, lines 23-57).

u.   As to claim 27, Shah discloses, wherein the one or more host adapter

ports comprise Fibre Channel host adapter ports (col 14, lines 55-60).

v.   As to claim 28, Shah discloses, wherein the fabric comprises a Fibre

Channel switched fabric comprising a plurality of Fibre Channel switches (col. 14, lines

55-60).

w.   As to claim 29, Shah discloses, wherein the fabric is part of a storage area

network (SAN), and wherein the fabric devices comprise storage devices (col. 14, lines

55-60).

x.   Claims 31-34, 36, 37, 39-42, 44, 45, 47-49, 51, 52, 54-59 are system

claims corresponding to the method of claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24-

29; therefore, they are rejected under the same rationale as claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14,

15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24-29.

y.   Claims 61-64, 66, 67, 69-72, 74, 75, 77-79, 81, 82, and 84-89 are

apparatus claims (computer readable storage medium) corresponding to the method of

claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24-29; therefore, they are rejected under

the same rationale as claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24-29.

10.   Claims 30, 60, and 90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Shah and Jibbe as applied to claims 1, 31, and 61 respectively, in

view of Lee et al. (U.S. 6,889,380 B1) hereinafter referred to as Shah '380.

As to claims 30, 60, and 90, Shah does not explicitly disclose, verifying the one

or more, fabric devices before bringing the one or more fabric devices online, wherein

said verifying comprises accessing a fabric name server to determine if the one or more

fabric devices are currently connected to the fabric. However, in the same field of

endeavor, Shah '380 discloses the fabric control driver simply verifies that the local

channel adapter is ready for connectivity and then loads the driver (Shah '380. col 9,

lines 41-62; col. 10, lines 40-59, col. 11, lines 32-51) for the purpose of successfully

loading host-side drivers in the data networks (Shah '380, col. 1, lines 38- 40).

Response to Arguments

11.   Applicant's arguments, see arguments, filed 12 July 2007, with respect to the

rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 31, and 61 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) have been fully considered

and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon

further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Jibbe as provided

above.

Conclusion

12.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Michael Meucci at (571) 272-3892. The examiner can

normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Andrew Caldwell, can be reached at (571) 272-3868. The fax phone

number for this Group is 571-273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those

under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the

applicant and should be addressed to [michael.meucci@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file.

PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a

possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record

includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35

U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published

in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG

89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

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more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER